

VA GROUND WATER PROTECTION STEERING COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

DEQ 629 East Main Street, Richmond VA

For more information contact Mary Ann Massie at 804-698-4042 or
email mamassie@deq.virginia.gov

Meeting Summary: Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Steering Committee members in attendance:

Mary Ann Massie, Department of Environmental Quality

Howard Freeland, Department of Environmental Quality

Rebecca Askew, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

George Harlow, US Geological Survey

Chris Adkins, Department of Health

Jim McKean, Department of Business Assistance

Wyatt Little, Department of Housing and Community Development

Guests:

Andrea Putscher

Agencies not in attendance:

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy,
Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Department of General
Services/Division of Consolidated Laboratories.

AGENCY UPDATES:

Department of Environmental Quality

Mary Ann Massie, Water Resources Division, reported on the recent field trip to the Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater, a recent reorganization with the Water Resources Division, the approval of the 2006 grant, and the Request for Proposals for wellhead implementation projects that was issued in cooperation with VDH.

Scott Bruce and Robin Patton were promoted to manage the Office of Ground Water Characterization and the Office of Ground Water Permitting respectively. Advertisements for additional staff are in the works.

The Request for Proposals for wellhead protection implementation projects generated four responses totaling \$51,450. VDH and DEQ staff are currently evaluating the proposals.

Howard Freeland distributed DEQ guidance developed in response to legislation passed during the 2005 General Assembly regarding provisions for siting a sanitary landfill in the vicinity of surface water or ground water based public water supply; VDH cooperated in the development of the criteria. Discussion followed. If you are interested in a copy of the guidance please contact Howard Freeland at hfreeland@deq.virginia.gov

Additionally Howard spoke on the Solid Waste Management Regulations and the relationship of Solid Waste Management Plans (Regional or by individual locality) to requests for expansion of existing landfills or development of new landfills.

Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services

Rebecca Askew reported their relocation to a new office building at 102 Governor Street, across from the Madison Building. Additionally Glenn Martin with the AgStewardship program relayed news of their first civil penalty associated with the AgStewardship Act. The Act embraces cooperative approaches to water quality problems stemming from agricultural lands however when a cooperative approach fails VDACS does have enforcement capabilities.

Rebecca also reported that Fauquier County has been designated a primary disaster area by the US Secretary of Agriculture due to the drought. Seven additional localities have been designated contiguous disaster areas by the Secretary due to drought. These are Clarke, Prince William, Warren, Culpeper, Rappahannock, Loudoun, and Stafford counties.

Department of Housing and Community Development

Wyatt Little reported comments are being sought until the end of November on the DHCD 2006 Community Block Grant Program Design. The document can be found on their web page at

http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ADMIN/Whats_new.htm

Department of Health

Chris Adkins noted Jerry Peaks', Office of Water Programs director, impending retirement on Dec 1. Other vacancies within the Agency are being filled as well. Source Water Protection Plan development is underway for small systems with the assistance of their contractor Olver Inc. VDH staff has been assisting Virginia Rural Water Association staff in their efforts and have been involved in water supply issues in Big Stone Gap.

Department of Business Assistance

Jim McKean noted a cooperative effort on small business planning for natural disasters with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. A web page promoting an "Emergency Survival Toolkit" for small businesses can be found at www.vaemergency.com

Additionally Jim reported another web initiative aimed at serving small businesses and entrepreneurs with "live chat assistance" from representatives with the Virginia Business Information Center. Great resources for small business at www.business.virginia.gov

US Geological Survey

George Harlow distributed Scientific Report #2005-5161 Hydrogeology and ground water availability in the carbonate aquifer system of Frederick County, Virginia. (Harlow, George E., Jr.; Orndorff, Randall C.; Nelms, David L.; Weary, David J.; Moberg, Roger M.) This publication can be found online at <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/pubs/sir/sir20055161>

George reported the USGS will monitor the Shenandoah River as part of the investigative effort on the fish kills affecting both the North and South forks. George noted the cooperative effort by USGS and VDH (Rice and Monti) examining water resource impacts from Confined Animal Feeding Operations; their effort will be summarized in a report due out by mid December. Funding for this cooperative project came through the Center for Disease Control.

Members present discussed articles for the Annual Report. Mary Ann will send an email to members requesting their assistance prior to the first of the year. Members present offered suggestions for speakers/programs in 2006. (Water Supply Planning, CBIC Field trip summary and pictures, Solid Waste Management Plans, waste facility score card on recycling requirements, Brownfields, USGS-VDH CAFO monitoring effort)

Discussion followed on the January meeting and conflicts with the General Assembly. It was decided that the January 2006 meeting will be canceled in favor of strong program with great attendance in March. The date is Tuesday March 21, 2006 and our speaker will be Scott Kudlas with DEQ's Office of Water Supply Planning.

Albert Crigger and Nancy Carr, Virginia Rural Water Association, provided the following update in absentia. Albert continues his work with Maury Service Authority and Henry County PSA. Nancy reports working with 13 local governments on protection activities.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**The January 17 meeting has been canceled.
THE NEXT MEETING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, March 21, 2006. Scott Kudlas, DEQ Office of Water Supply Planning, will give an overview of his program. Please plan to attend or send an alternate.**